

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested. Claims 1-83 are pending. Claims 17-77 are withdrawn. Claims 1-3, 17, 22, 23, 28, 29, 36, 41, 42, 45, 49, 50, 54-56, and 61-66 are amended. New claims 84-87 are added. No new matter has been added due to the amendments. Amendment to the claims does not affect inventorship.

Applicants have not dedicated or abandoned any unclaimed subject matter and moreover have not acquiesced to any rejections made by the Patent Office. Applicants reserve the right to pursue prosecution of any presently excluded claim embodiments in future continuation and/or divisional applications.

Restriction

The Examiner requires Applicant to elect one of the following groups of inventions identified by the Examiner:

- Group I: Claims 1-3 drawn to a conjugate comprising a β -arrestin and a detectable molecule.
- Group II: Claims 70-77 drawn to substrate having deposited thereon a plurality of cells, said cells expressing GPCR containing a conjugate, the conjugate comprising a β -arrestin and a detectable molecule.
- Group III: Claims 17-21 drawn to a method of assessing G protein coupled receptor pathway activity..
- Group IV: Claims 23-60 drawn to a method for screening a test compound for G protein coupled receptor agonist and antagonists.
- Group V: Claims 61-69 drawn to a method for screening a cell for the presence of a G protein coupled receptor.
- Group VI: Claim 22 drawn to a method for screening a β -arrestin protein for the ability to bind to phosphorylated GPCR.

As a preliminary matter, Applicants note that claims 4-16, and 78-83 are not listed in the restriction groups. Thus, claims 4-16 and 78-83 are pending and under consideration.

Applicants hereby elect **Group I, Claims 1-3**, without traverse, for further prosecution. As acknowledged by the Examiner on page 3 of the Office Action, the conjugates of Group I and the methods of Groups III-VI are related as product and process of use. Applicants make this election with the understanding that upon the finding of a product claim of elected Group I allowable, the withdrawn process claims of Group III-VI that depend from or otherwise include all limitations of such an allowable

product claim will be rejoined with the pending claims, in accordance with the provisions of M.P.E.P. § 821.04. As such, the claims of Groups III-VI are withdrawn but have been amended to depend from claim 1 of Group I. In addition, new claims 84-87 each depend from claim 1. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the non-elected inventions at a later date.

Claim Amendments

Claims 1-3 have been amended. Support can be found, for example, on page 25, lines 3-9. Claims 17, 22, 23, 28, 29, 36, 41, 42, 45, 49, 50, 54-56, and 61-66 have been amended to depend from claim 1.

CONCLUSION

Please direct any calls in connection with this application to the undersigned at (415) 781-1989.

Respectfully submitted,
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